



# General Assembly

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**Seventy-ninth session**

Agenda items 38, 71 and 127

**Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and  
financial embargo imposed by the United States of  
America against Cuba**

**Promotion and protection of human rights**

**Global health and foreign policy**

**Letter dated 25 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of  
Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba (see annex) regarding the dishonest and slanderous crackdown currently being carried out by the Government of the United States against Cuban international cooperation, in particular the provision of health services.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 71 and 127.

(Signed) **Ernesto Soberón Guzmán**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I wish to share with you our deep concern about a serious matter that affects not only my country but a broad group of United Nations Member States and is related to coexistence among nations, the principle of sovereign equality among States and the self-determination of peoples, the right to development and the right to health, cooperation among developing countries, and numerous resolutions and pronouncements of the Organization.

I am referring to the crackdown that the Government of the United States is carrying out today against Cuban international cooperation, in particular the provision of health services in nearly 60 countries, the vast majority of which are developing nations.

On 25 February 2025, the United States Department of State announced the decision to expand its policy of visa restrictions for Cuban officials and officials from other countries linked to the international cooperation programmes that Cuba has developed for more than six decades. These actions are already under way. Since that time, representatives of the Government of the United States and its embassies in various capitals have deployed a campaign of threats and harassment against the Governments of the nations with which Cuba maintains this cooperation.

To do so, the Government of the United States relies on dishonest arguments aimed at discrediting an absolutely legitimate solidarity effort. For more than six decades, our health partners and their selfless service have saved more than 12 million lives in 164 nations; treated more than 2 billion cases; performed more than 17 million surgeries and delivered more than 5 million babies; and administered more than 12 million doses of vaccines, mainly in developing countries and among the most disadvantaged populations in remote communities, where no or very few health services had ever been offered.

The conduct of the Government of the United States, in addition to trying to discredit such an important contribution, seeks to cut or significantly reduce the financial resources received by the Cuban public health system as a result of these international services.

To that end, United States politicians and officials are using the argument that the services Cuba provides equate to slavery and trafficking in persons. Such unfounded accusations are not promoted out of ignorance, but with deliberate and illegitimate political objectives.

The cooperation programmes offered by Cuba have been recognized by the international community, including several agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO). They fully comply with the principles of South-South cooperation and with the international standards of WHO and the Pan American Health Organization. They are also based on intergovernmental agreements between Cuba and the recipient country, with full respect for the sovereignty and internal affairs of each country.

Cuban health professionals who participate in the health cooperation programmes do so voluntarily. During the mission, they maintain an employment relationship with their entity in Cuba through an employment contract, which guarantees the full payment of their monthly salary, as well as their social security contributions, weekly rest and paid annual vacations. In addition, they receive an income or stipend in the country in which they serve.

In those nations with more unfavourable economic conditions, such cooperation is provided as a gesture of solidarity, without Cuba receiving any financial compensation. Similarly, and in line with United Nations concepts on cooperation among developing countries and between developed and developing nations, Cuba provides cooperation in several countries on the basis of complementarity and partial compensation for services rendered, the amounts of which are agreed between the parties depending on the economic conditions of the recipient country.

The income received by Cuba as a result of the contracts agreed upon by the parties is used in Cuba to finance, sustain and develop a completely free and high-quality healthcare system that covers the entire population. It also helps to finance other forms of international cooperation offered by Cuba, particularly in the least developed countries.

By targeting Cuban medical cooperation, the United States Government is affecting the exercise of the human right to health in third countries, infringing on the sovereign right of each nation to determine how to address the problems of its population and hindering the efforts of the United Nations to promote the Sustainable Development Goals through South-South cooperation.

As United Nations Member States are well aware, the fundamental purpose of the United States Government is to cause the greatest economic and material harm to the Cuban population, depress their income and livelihood, provoke anguish and despair and incite political instability in the country, under the illusion of bringing about a change in the constitutional order legitimately established in Cuba.

In the face of this irresponsible behaviour by the United States, the leaders of several nations have rejected its accusations, harassment and blackmail and have recognized the importance of Cuban cooperation.

I assure you that Cuba will continue to promote and implement its cooperation programmes, including in the area of health, on the basis of its unwavering commitment to the right to development and the human right to health, as well as its genuine interest in contributing modestly to the efforts of the South to achieve important sustainable development targets.

*(Signed)* Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**

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